

WELLINGTON RURAL DISTRICT.

Area in Acres	...	...	...	33,906
Population at Census, 1911	...	...	...	6,074
Estimated Population, 1920	...	...	...	6,180
Occupation	...	...	...	Chiefly Agricultural
Woollen Manufactures—at Wellington and Wiveliscombe				
Brickyards	...		at Poole.	

Geology—Upper Part of New Red Sandstone Series,
with thin beds of Clay here and there.

Staff consists—

CHARLES RANDOLPH, Medical Officer of Health.

ERNEST HOWARD, Sanitary Inspector.

W. T. GLASS, Clerk to District Council.

MILVERTON, SOMERSET.

To the Wellington Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my annual report for the year 1920, prepared according to instructions received from the Health authorities.

BIRTHS. 128 births have been registered during the year, giving an annual birth rate of 22.9 per 1,000, this is a considerable increase from the previous year in which 87 births were recorded.

INFANT MORTALITY. 5 infants have died under 1 year of age, thus producing an infant mortality rate of 39.1 per 1,000 births. Taking the high birth rate into consideration, the infant death rate is low.

DEATHS. Eighty deaths have taken place during the past year, counting those who belong to our district and have died elsewhere. These eighty deaths produce an annual death rate of 14.3 per 1,000.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Influenza	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Pulmonary Phthisis	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Other Tubercular Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Heart Disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	11

Taking these eight deaths from tuberculosis we have, for our district, a rather high Tubercular death rate, the average death rate from this disease for the last ten years is only 4.6.


INFECTIOUS DISEASES. The following cases of infectious disease have been notified to me during the past year:—

Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	44
Polioomyelitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Acute Primary Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Other Tuberculosis Varieties	..	..	..	..	..	..	2

During October, November and December Milverton and Fitzhead were visited with an epidemic of Scarlet Fever. Disease very mild in character. At first the cases ran about the streets, and went to school. The schools were closed for seven weeks, then thoroughly disinfected. There was only one death out of about 44 cases. There were probably many cases without Doctor or notification. Some mothers took infection from their children.

In all cases, disinfection was carried out as far as possible. There is no isolation Hospital in our District, arrangements are made with Tiverton to receive cases when necessary.

All cases of Tuberculosis are notified to me as far as I am aware. The Tuberculosis Dispensaries are working smoothly and well, and medical men and patients are only too glad to avail themselves of the assistance afforded by them. Personally thirty-three vaccinations have been performed by me during the year. It is difficult to estimate the number of unvaccinated children in the District.



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DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. No drainage or sewerage operations on a large scale have been undertaken during the year.

Your Council has held as usual the monthly meeting, and all Nuisances reported by your Inspector or your Medical Officer have received your attention.

WATER SUPPLY. There has been no scarcity during the year, except in a few localities where water is practically unobtainable. The Milverton supply has done well and measures are being adopted to augment the supply to meet the demand made upon it when the new cottages are erected.

The supply of water for Chipstable is engaging your Council's attention. One well at West Buckland has been condemned as unfit for drinking purposes.

MILK SUPPLY is excellent and there is no shortage.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION. The scarcity of house accommodation continues and I can see no improvement in this respect at present. Foundations of two cottages have been laid in a suitable site at Milverton.

Three Bungalows for private use have been erected in the rural district. As far as I am aware no further building operations have taken place in this district during the past year.

Five houses have been condemned as unfit for human habitation. Two of these have been repaired, two have been abandoned, and one remains in the same condition.

No cases of overcrowding have occurred during the year.

I am, Sirs,

Your obedient Servant,

CHARLES RANDOLPH,

Medical Officer of Health.

